



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

PRINCIPLES OF UROLOGY—An Introductory Textbook to the Diseases of the Urogenital Tract—Meredith F. Campbell, M.S., M.D., F.A.C.S., Emeritus Professor of Urology, New York University. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1957. 622 pages, 319 figures, \$9.50.

This is probably the best one-volume textbook on urology that has appeared in recent years. Though intended primarily for the student and general practitioner, it offers much of value even to the specialist in the field. The author is well known for his *Pediatric Urology* and as editor of the monumental 3-volume *Urology* which appeared in 1954. Possibly the reputation gained from these works lends a note of authority to this one.

It is a much more complete treatise than the several student manuals of which we have seen almost too many. This completeness is quite impressive, though there is no attempt to give any detailed technical instructions about any but the most simple diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. This is part of the author's design, for the book is intended to furnish an adequate basic concept of urology, without attempting to invade the field properly limited to the specialist.

There is a 90-page chapter on embryology and anomalies that is of unusual interest. This he justifies by the opening statement that "more than 10 per cent of all humans are born with some urogenital anomaly." Few doctors realize the importance of this fact. The chapter also includes a section on the undescended testicle that should be read by every pediatrician.

All the usual subjects are covered, including injuries, obstructions, infections, calculus disease, and tumors, as well as methods of history taking and examination. An unusual innovation is a section on semantics and word usage, with a syllabus of urologic terms. There are also included discussions of most of the less common conditions. Notable among these are the endocrine disorders and neuromuscular dysfunction of the bladder. One of the best chapters is the one on the adrenals, a subject largely ignored in many texts, and one of increasing interest and importance.

Not all urologists will agree with all of his opinions. He has an obvious prejudice against transurethral prostatectomy, which he considers of limited value and an operation "only for expert experienced hands." This position may, after all, have a healthy effect in warning against the unwarranted idea that the transurethral approach is always the best method of prostatic surgery. His implied preference for the suprapubic route reflects the influence of Keyes and the Bellevue Hospital. He even quotes Keyes' old aphorism, "Fewer perineals die, but fewer suprapubics wish they were dead." The retropubic operation receives little attention.

The book has a generally conservative tone, as compared to the tendency toward radicalism often seen. He refers to the radical cystectomy as a "slaughterhouse procedure" and doubts that many of the operators would permit the operation on themselves.

Principles of Urology by Campbell is to be strongly recommended. Even the specialist will find much of enlightenment, some things to argue about, and a lot of common sense. The nonspecialist will find a good concentrated basic knowledge of the field, and a thoroughly modern conservative approach to therapy. Most important to him is that there is no propaganda for ultraradical procedures, the value of which is debatable, and for which the decision should never be made by one not thoroughly familiar with the subject. Buy the book.

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CLINICAL CARDIOPULMONARY PHYSIOLOGY —
Sponsored by the American College of Chest Physicians—
Edited by Burgess L. Gordon, M.D. Grune and Stratton,
New York, 1957. 759 pages, \$15.75.

This large volume, which was sponsored by the American College of Chest Physicians, is an attempt to present the clinical physiology of the lungs and heart and the application of this to clinical disease states. What has resulted from this attempt is not so much an integrated textbook as a set of articles by various authors on various segments of this field.

The book can be divided roughly into sections on pulmonary physiology and testing procedures, clinical pulmonary disease and cardiovascular disease. Most of the chapters are well written and present their subjects in a reasonably comprehensive manner. Many contain valuable personal laboratory, diagnostic, and therapeutic experiences of the author. Each is followed by an up to date and usually extensive list of pertinent references. Some chapters stand out in the combining of basic physiological thinking with clinical and therapeutic approaches to clinical problems. Examples are those on bronchial asthma, emphysema, and acquired valvular heart disease. Not all are so good. For example, the chapter on normal pulmonary physiology does not live up to its stated purpose of providing a background for discussing fundamental disturbances in that it devotes too much space to pulmonary function tests and not enough to basic physiology. Another example is the section on cardiac catheterization which is sketchy and places an improper emphasis on arterial catheterization. The weaker chapters do not, however, detract too greatly from the overall value of the book because as pointed out above each is virtually an independent article on its own subject and can be read as such.

In general the book quite well fulfills its stated purpose, that of bringing together into one volume a large amount of material bearing on the physiological and clinical aspects of heart and lung disease. It is a volume which should be of definite value to the clinician who deals with pulmonary problems, and which should be added to any cardiopulmonary library.

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